

Memo

To: Elections and Ethics Committee
From: Ann Bollin, CMC, Clerk
Date: October 29, 2013
Re: House Bill 4878

House Bill 4878 has the potential to completely change how Michigan elections are administered. Michigan has long been rendered a leader in administering elections with integrity. While there may be opportunities to administer elections in a more efficient and consistent manner turning tasks over to the State, a level of government most removed from the constituents, is not the solution. Please consult with local and county clerks that are on the front lines for input. The exchange needs to include clerks outside of the two statewide associations representing local and county clerks (MAMC and MACC). While these organizations are professional and committed to the advancement of the clerk's profession, it is a missed opportunity to not reach out to the roughly 1500 local clerks that do not belong to either organization. Coupled with the knowledge and experience of Chris Thomas and others at the Bureau of Elections I am confident that together we may find a path to the future of election administration in Michigan that will ensure continued and advanced integrity in all aspects of election administration, voter engagement and all associated processes.

Please do not advance HB 4878 in its current form. Too many times in the last ten years election related legislation has been placed on the fast track with the residual consequences not thoroughly vetted. As a clerk in a mid-size to large community (pop. 17,000, registered voters 12,000+) I would be happy to serve on an ad hoc committee to weigh the pros and cons of the pilot concepts within the legislation or to vet out the identified problems/deficiencies that the Committee is trying to resolve.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the great State of Michigan. If you have any questions, please contact me at 810-229-0560.